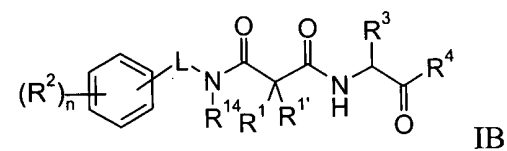
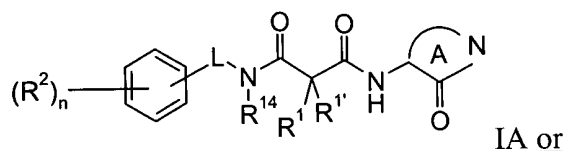
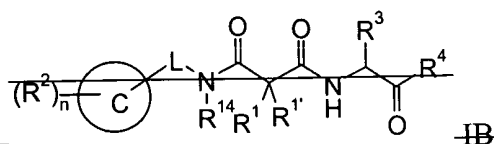
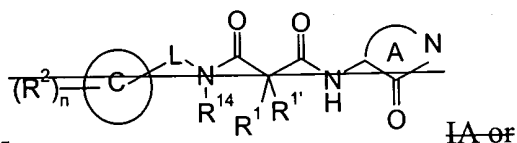
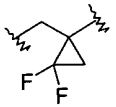



CLAIMS AMENDMENTS

1. (Currently Amended) A compound of formula



wherein

L is a bond, $-(\text{CH}_2)_m-$, $-\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)-$, or is  ;

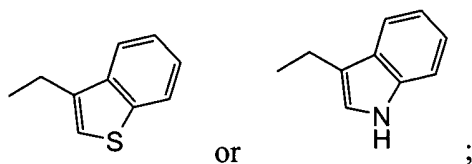
 is a cyclic ring, selected from the group consisting of phenyl, pyridinyl, furanyl, benzo[b]thiophenyl, tetrahydronaphthyl, indanyl, 2,2-dimethyl[1,3]dioxolanyl and tetrahydrofuranlyl;

R^1 and $R^{1'}$ are the same or different and are hydrogen, lower alkyl, halogen, benzyl or lower alkenyl;

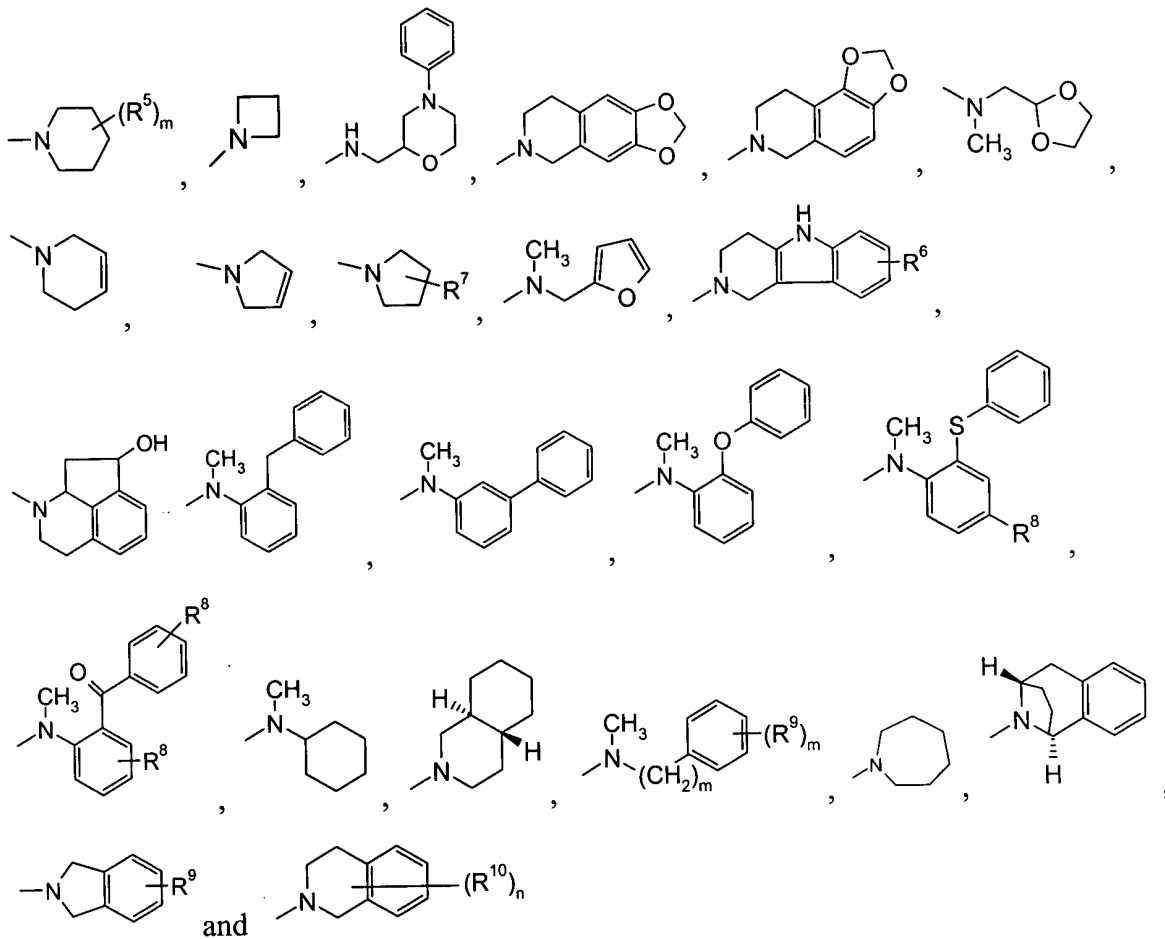
each R^2 is independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, hydroxy, halogen, lower alkyl, lower alkoxy and trifluoromethyl;

R^3 - is phenyl or benzyl, each of which is unsubstituted or substituted by one or two substituents selected from the group consisting of halogen and cyano, or is

- lower alkyl,
- two hydrogen atoms,
- $(CH_2)_m$ -S-lower alkyl,
- $(CH_2)_m$ -cycloalkyl,
- $(CH_2)_m$ -OH,
- CH_2OCH_2 -phenyl,



R^4 is lower alkoxy,
- mono-or dialkyl amino,
- $N(CH_3)(CH_2)_m-C\equiv CH$,
or is a mono-, di or tricyclic group, unsubstituted or substituted by R^5 to R^{10} , and
which groups can be linked by $-N(CH_3)(CH_2)_6$, to the $-C(O)-$ group in
formula IB, selected from the group consisting of



wherein

each R⁵ is independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, halogen,

lower alkyl and $-(\text{CH}_2)_m\text{OH}$;

R⁶ is hydrogen, halogen or lower alkoxy;

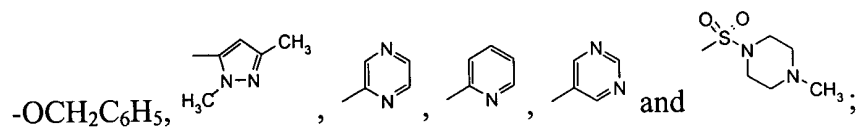
R⁷ is hydrogen or -CH₂OCH₃;

R⁸ is hydrogen or halogen;

R⁹ is hydrogen, lower alkoxy, lower alkyl or amino;

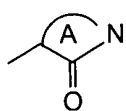
each R¹⁰ is independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, lower alkyl,

lower alkoxy, lower cycloalkyl, halogen, hydroxy, =O, amino, nitro, $-\text{CH}_2\text{CN}$,

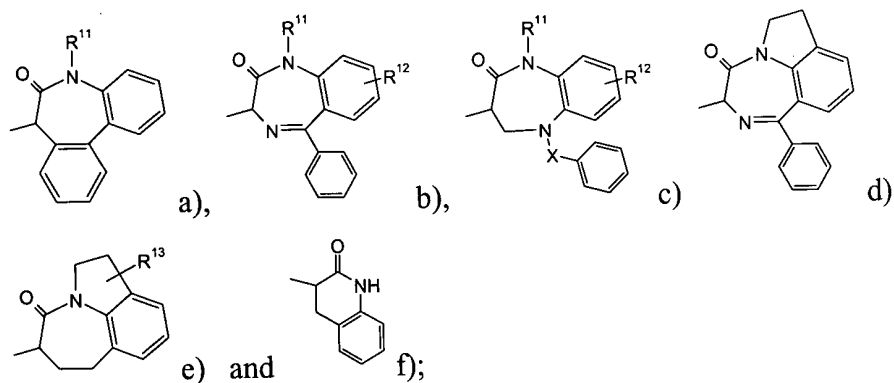


m is 1 or 2;

n is 1, 2 or 3;



is selected from the group consisting of

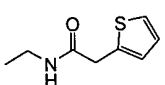
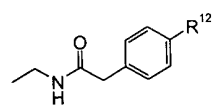


wherein

X is $-\text{CH}_2$, $-\text{S}(\text{O})_2$ or $-\text{C}(\text{O})-$;

R^{11} is hydrogen or lower alkyl;

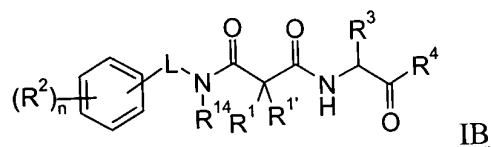
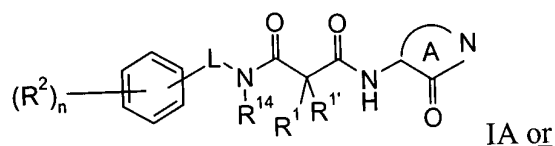
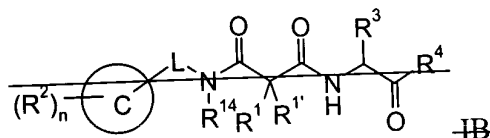
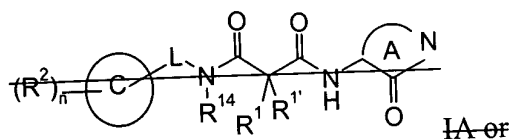
R^{12} is hydrogen or halogen;

R^{13} is hydrogen, CN, hydroxy, $-\text{C}(\text{O})\text{NH}_2$,  or  ;

R^{14} is hydrogen, lower alkyl, $-(\text{CH}_2)_2\text{OH}$ or $-(\text{CH}_2)_2\text{CN}$;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salt thereof.

2. (Currently Amended) A compound of formula



wherein

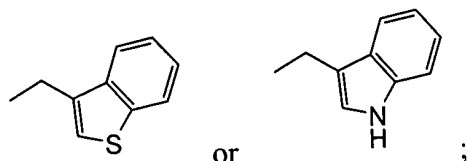
R^1 and $\text{R}^{1'}$ are the same or different and are hydrogen, lower alkyl, halogen, benzyl or lower alkenyl;

each R^2 is independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, halogen, lower alkyl, lower alkoxy and trifluoromethyl;

R^3 is phenyl or benzyl, each of which is unsubstituted or substituted by one or two substituents selected from the group consisting of halogen and cyano, or is

- lower alkyl,
- two hydrogen atoms,
- $(\text{CH}_2)_m\text{---S---lower alkyl}$,

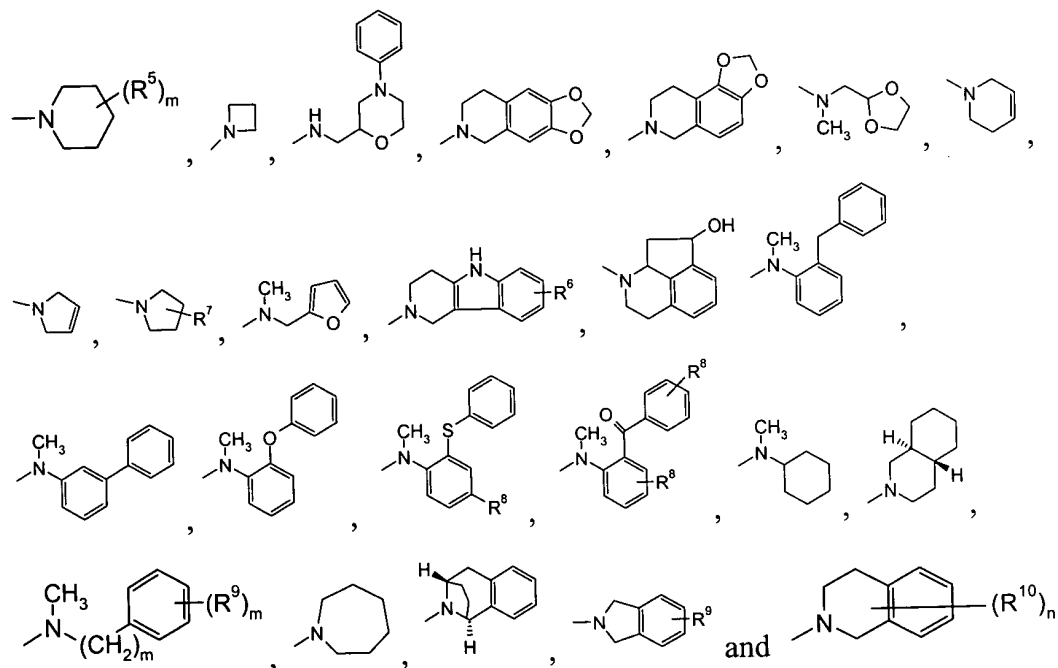
- (CH₂)_m-cycloalkyl,
- (CH₂)_m-OH,
- CH₂OCH₂-phenyl,



R⁴ is lower alkoxy,

- mono-or dialkyl amino,
- N(CH₃)(CH₂)_m-C≡CH,

or is a mono-, di or tricyclic group, unsubstituted or substituted by R⁵ to R¹⁰, and which groups can be linked by -N(CH₃)(CH₂)₀, to the -C(O)-group in formula IB, selected from the group consisting of



wherein

each R^5 is independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen,

halogen, lower alkyl and $-(CH_2)_mOH$;

R^6 is hydrogen, halogen or lower alkoxy;

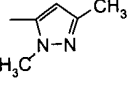



R^7 is hydrogen or $-CH_2OCH_3$;

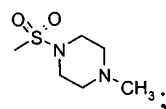
R^8 is hydrogen or halogen;

R^9 is hydrogen, lower alkoxy, lower alkyl or amino;

each R^{10} is independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen,

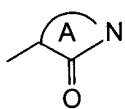
lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, lower cycloalkyl, halogen, hydroxy, $=O$, amino,

nitro, $-CH_2CN$, $-OCH_2C_6H_5$, , , ,  and

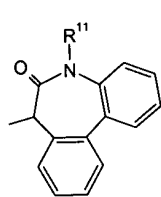


m is 1 or 2;

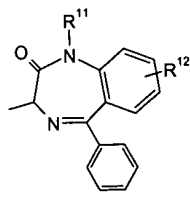
n is 1, 2 or 3;



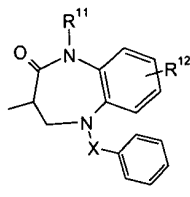
is selected from the group consisting of



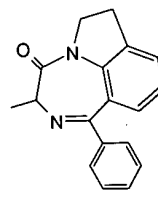
a),



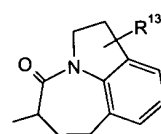
b),



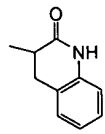
c)



d)



e) and



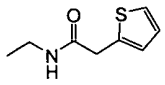
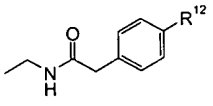
f);

wherein

X is $-\text{CH}_2$, $-\text{S}(\text{O})_2$ or $-\text{C}(\text{O})-$;

R^{11} is hydrogen or lower alkyl;

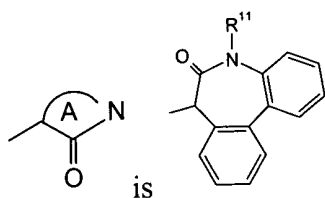
R^{12} is hydrogen or halogen;

R^{13} is hydrogen, CN, hydroxy, $-\text{C}(\text{O})\text{NH}_2$,  or  ;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salt thereof.

3. (Original) A compound of formula IA in accordance with claim 1.

4. (Original) A compound of formula IA in accordance with claim 3, wherein



5. (Cancelled)

6. (Currently Amended) A compound in accordance with claim [[5]] 1 selected from the group consisting of

N-(3,5-difluoro-benzyl)-2-methyl-N'-(5-methyl-6-oxo-6,7-dihydro-5H-dibenzo[b,d]azepin-7-yl)-malonamide,

N-(3,5-difluoro-benzyl)-2-fluoro-2-methyl-N'-(5-methyl-6-oxo-6,7-dihydro-5H-dibenzo[b,d]azepin-7-yl)-malonamide,

N-(3,5-difluoro-benzyl)-2-isopropyl-N'-(5-methyl-6-oxo-6,7-dihydro-5H-dibenzo[b,d]azepin-7-yl)-malonamide,
N-(3,5-difluoro-benzyl)-2-ethyl-N'-(5-methyl-6-oxo-6,7-dihydro-5H-dibenzo[b,d]azepin-7-yl)-malonamide,
N-(3,5-difluoro-benzyl)-2-fluoro-N'-(5-methyl-6-oxo-6,7-dihydro-5H-dibenzo[b,d]azepin-7-yl)-malonamide,
N-(3,5-difluoro-benzyl)-2,2-dimethyl-N'-(5-methyl-6-oxo-6,7-dihydro-5H-dibenzo[b,d]azepin-7-yl)-malonamide,
N-(3,5-difluoro-benzyl)-N'-(5-methyl-6-oxo-6,7-dihydro-5H-dibenzo[b,d]azepin-7-yl)-2-propyl-malonamide,
N-benzyl-2-methyl-N'-(5-methyl-6-oxo-6,7-dihydro-5H-dibenzo[b,d]azepin-7-yl)-malonamide,
N-(4-fluoro-benzyl)-2-methyl-N'-(5-methyl-6-oxo-6,7-dihydro-5H-dibenzo[b,d]azepin-7-yl)-malonamide,
N-(4-chloro-benzyl)-2-methyl-N'-(5-methyl-6-oxo-6,7-dihydro-5H-dibenzo[b,d]azepin-7-yl)-malonamide,
N-(3-fluoro-benzyl)-2-methyl-N'-(5-methyl-6-oxo-6,7-dihydro-5H-dibenzo[b,d]azepin-7-yl)-malonamide,
N-(2,5-difluoro-benzyl)-2-methyl-N'-(5-methyl-6-oxo-6,7-dihydro-5H-dibenzo[b,d]azepin-7-yl)-malonamide,
2-methyl-N-(5-methyl-6-oxo-6,7-dihydro-5H-dibenzo[b,d]azepin-7-yl)-N'-(2,3,5-trifluoro-benzyl)-malonamide,
N-(2-fluoro-benzyl)-2-methyl-N'-(5-methyl-6-oxo-6,7-dihydro-5H-dibenzo[b,d]azepin-7-yl)-malonamide,
N-(2-chloro-benzyl)-2-methyl-N'-(5-methyl-6-oxo-6,7-dihydro-5H-dibenzo[b,d]azepin-

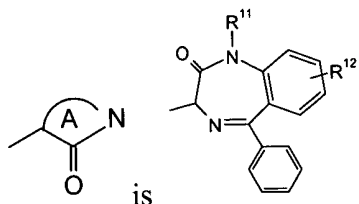
7-yl)-malonamide and

N-(3-chloro-benzyl)-2-methyl-N'-(5-methyl-6-oxo-6,7-dihydro-5H-dibenzo[b,d]azepin-7-yl)-malonamide.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Cancelled).

9. (Original) A compound of formula IA in accordance with claim 3 wherein



10. (Original) A compound in accordance with claim 9, selected from the group consisting of

(N-(3,5-difluoro-benzyl)-2-methyl-N'-(1-methyl-2-oxo-5-phenyl-2,3-dihydro-1H-benzo[e][1,4]diazepin-3-yl)-malonamide,

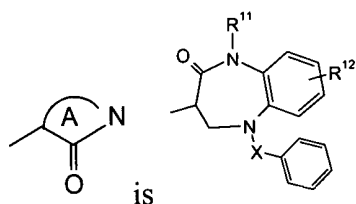
N-(3,5-difluoro-benzyl)-2-fluoro-2-methyl-N'-(1-methyl-2-oxo-5-phenyl-2,3-dihydro-1H-benzo[e][1,4]diazepin-3-yl)-malonamide,

N-(3,5-difluoro-benzyl)-N'-(1-methyl-2-oxo-5-phenyl-2,3-dihydro-1H-benzo[e][1,4]diazepin-3-yl)-2-propyl-malonamide,

N-(3,5-difluoro-benzyl)-2-ethyl-N'-(1-methyl-2-oxo-5-phenyl-2,3-dihydro-1H-benzo[e][1,4]diazepin-3-yl)-malonamide and

N-(4-chloro-benzyl)-2-methyl-N'-(1-methyl-2-oxo-5-phenyl-2,3-dihydro-1H-benzo[e][1,4]diazepin-3-yl)-malonamide.

11. (Original) A compound of formula IA in accordance with claim 3, wherein



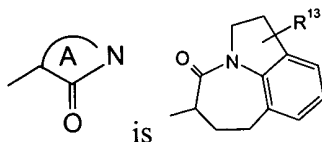
12. (Original) A compound in accordance with claim 11, selected from the group consisting of

N-(5-benzyl-1-methyl-2-oxo-2,3,4,5-tetrahydro-1H-benzo[b][1,4]diazepin-3-yl)-N'-(3,5-difluoro-benzyl)-2-methyl-malonamide,

N-(5-benzenesulfonyl-1-methyl-2-oxo-2,3,4,5-tetrahydro-1H-benzo[b][1,4]diazepin-3-yl)-N'-(3,5-difluoro-benzyl)-2-methyl-malonamide and

N-(5-benzoyl-1-methyl-2-oxo-2,3,4,5-tetrahydro-1H-benzo[b][1,4]diazepin-3-yl)-N'-(3,5-difluoro-benzyl)-2-methyl-malonamide.

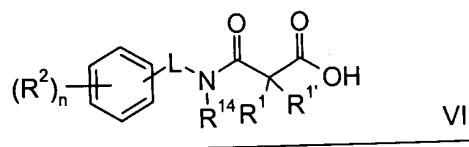
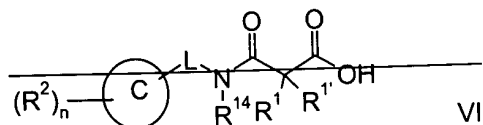
13. (Original) A compound of formula IA in accordance with claim 3, wherein



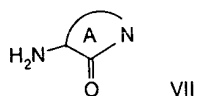
14. (Original) A compound in accordance with claim 13, selected from the group consisting of

(2S-cis)-N-(3,5-difluoro-benzyl)-2-methyl-N'-{4-oxo-2-[(2-thiophen-2-yl-acetylamino)-(2R,S)-methyl]-1,2,4,5,6,7-hexahydro-azepino[3,2,1-hi]indol-5-yl}-malonamide and
(2S-cis)-N-(3,5-difluoro-benzyl)-N'-(2-{[2-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-acetylamino]-methyl}-4-oxo-1,2,4,5,6,7-hexahydro-azepino[3,2,1-hi]indol-5-yl)-2,2-dimethyl-malonamide.

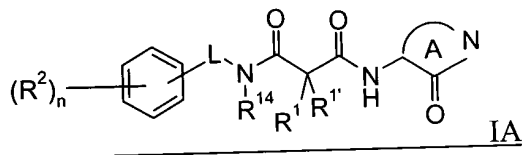
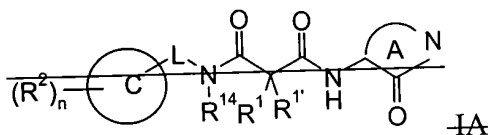
15. (Original) A compound of formula IB in accordance with claim 1.
16. (Original) A compound of formula IB in accordance with claim 2.
17. (Original) A compound in accordance with claim 1, wherein at least one R² is fluoro.
18. (Original) A composition comprising a compound of claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.
19. (Original) A composition comprising a compound of claim 2 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.
20. (Cancelled)
21. (Cancelled)
22. (Currently Amended) A process for preparing a compound of formula IA as defined in claim 1 which process comprises reacting a compound of formula



with a compound of formula

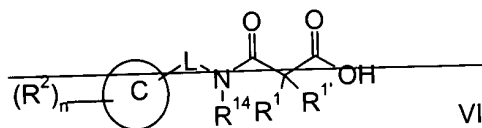


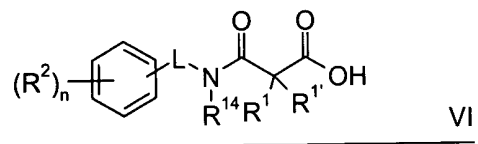
to produce a compound of formula



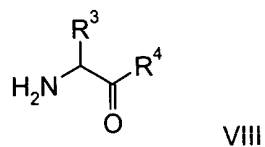
wherein the substituents are defined in claim 1.

23. (Currently Amended) A process for preparing a compound of formula IB as defined in claim 1 which process comprises reacting a compound of formula

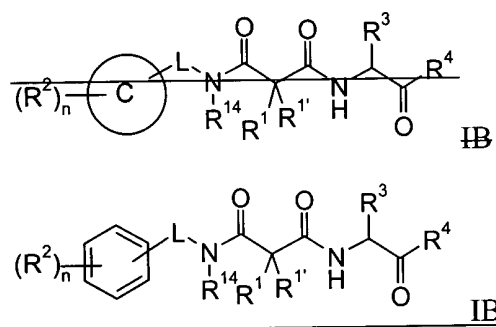




with a compound of formula

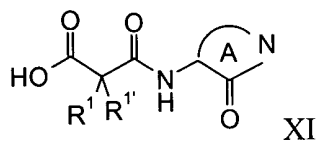


to produce a compound of formula

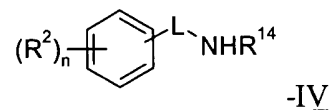
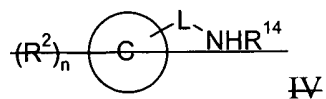


wherein the substituents are defined in claim 1.

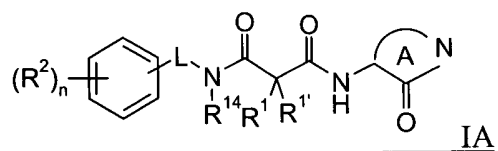
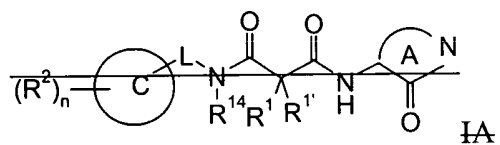
24. (Currently Amended) A process for preparing a compound of formula IA as defined in claim 1 which process comprises reacting a compound of formula



with a compound of formula



to produce a compound of formula



wherein the substituents are defined in claim 1.